

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00662 251235Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 A-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07
INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 USIE-00 TRSE-00 DODE-00 CCO-00
PA-01 PRS-01 /040 W
-----251242Z 036268 /14

O R 250817Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1718

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0662

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO JAPAN: TROOP WITHDRAWAL
ISSUE.

REF: STATE 015914

1. KOREAN OFFICIAL AND PRESS INTEREST AND CONCERN REGARDING
FORTHCOMING VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT TO TOKYO HAS
HEIGHTENED OVER PAST FEW DAYS. KOREAN FOCUS NATURALLY
IS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE AS TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
WITH JAPANESE. CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED NOT ONLY
REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL, BUT INCREASINGLY
REGARDING CONSULATION WITH JAPAN BEFORE KOREAN GOVERNMENT
HAS OPPORTUNITY EXPRESS ITS VIEWS. GENERAL VESSEY AND I
AS WELL AS OTHER US OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN PRESSED ON LATTER
PARTICULARLY IN RECENT DAYS. WHILE AT ONE POINT KOREANS
SEEMED CONTENT TO HAVE THEIR OBJECTIONS TO WITHDRAWAL
FRONTED BY THE JAPANESE, THEY HAVE NOW EXPRESSED RESENTMENT THAT
THE ISSUE IS TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH JAPWOESE BEHIND THEIR
BACKS.

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3. AT LUNCH TODAY, FOR EXAMPLE, OPPOSITION LEADER YI
CHOL-SUNG QUITE STRONGLY REFLECTED HIS UNHAPPINESS THAT
VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE VISITING JAPAN BUT NOT KOREA TO
TALK ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL.

4. DRAWING UPON RELEVANT PUBLIC STATEMENTS AS WELL AS PRESS

GUIDANCE (REFTEL), WE HAVE STRESSED TO KOREANS THAT MAJOR FOCUS OF VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP IS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, IMPROVEMENT OF WHICH WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE DIRECT BENEFIT TO KOREA. WE HAVE ALSO STRESSED, THAT WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO HEAR JAPANESE VIEWS ON OTHER PROBLEMS, INCLUDING KOREA, IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR THAT NOTHING PRECIPITOUS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND THERE WILL BE FULLY ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL CONSULTATION WITH KOREANS. NEVERTHELESS GIVEN CONSTANT FLOW OF PRESS SPECULATION ON THIS ISSUE FROM TOKYO AND WASHINGTON AS WELL AS SEOUL, WE DOUBT THAT THE INDOMITABLE KOREANS WILL BE DISCOURAGED FROM EXPRESSING THEIR ANXIETY AND FROM SPECULATING.

5. IN EFFORT TO KEEP SPECULATION HERE DOWN TO MODERATE LEVELS, SUGGEST CONTINUED EMPHASIS OF VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND OTHER BROADER ISSUES, AS SET FORTH REFTTEL, AND IN PARTICULAR DURING TOKYO VISIT LOW-KEYING TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE IN ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OR BACKGROUNDERS TO PRESS. OF COURSE IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO BRIEF KEY KOREAN OFFICIALS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE FOLLOWING IN LCISIT.

6. FINALLY WHILE IT MAY BE A MINOR SEMANTIC DISTINCTION, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO TALK IN TERMS OF EITHER TROOP "REDUCTIONS" OR "REDEPLOYMENT FROM KOREA" RATHER THAN WITHDRAWAL. FOR KOREANS, TERM "WITHDRAWAL" HAS COMPLETE AND FINITE QUALITY, IMPLYING COMPLETE PULLOUT OF ALL US FORCES, INCLUDING AIR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VICE PRESIDENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL00662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770026-0825
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770120/aaaaarmd.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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